

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

MICHAEL J. McMAHON ET AL.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/800,765

EXAMINER:

FILED: MARCH 16, 2004

GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: TILTLESS BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINER LINER
SYSTEM FOR USE WITH BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINERS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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SIR:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, and the prosecution thereof before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in **37 CFR 1.56**, Applicants hereby desire to make of record, in accordance with **37 CFR 1.97**, the following **PRIOR ART** of which Applicants are aware and which is also listed upon the attached **PTO FORM 1449**:

Information Disclosure Statement
**TILTLESS BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINER LINER
SYSTEM FOR USE WITH BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINERS**
Michael J. McMahon et al.

Podd et al.	5,494,394
Pierson	3,170,600
Forsberg	WO 85/04637
Chick	WO 88/09755
Mino	EP 1 386 859
Thornsen	EP 1 101 712


The present invention, in connection with which the present patent application is being prosecuted, is directed toward a bulk material cargo container liner system which comprises an inflatable bulk material cargo container liner having at least one vacuum discharge tube member disposed internally within the bulk material cargo container liner and extending along the longitudinal extent thereof for discharging bulk cargo material outwardly from the bulk material cargo container liner, and at least one inflatable air bag component which also extends throughout the longitudinal extent of the bulk material cargo container liner and which is initially disposed in a deflated state but which is adapted to be disposed in an inflated state when the bulk cargo material can no longer be evacuated under natural gravitational forces. By inflating the at least one inflatable air bag component, the angle of repose of the bulk cargo material disposed internally within the bulk material cargo container liner is

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effectively altered in a positive manner so as to cause the bulk cargo material to again flow toward the at least one vacuum discharge tube member whereby the bulk cargo material can be evacuated from the bulk material cargo container liner without the need for tilting the bulk material cargo container and the liner contained therein.

While the cited **PRIOR ART** is relevant to the present invention in that the **PRIOR ART** discloses conventional bulk container liners or inflatable containers, it is submitted that such **PRIOR ART** patent publications cited above do not disclose the particular aforementioned features of the present invention, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner should merely consider such **PRIOR ART** in its proper perspective, make the same officially of record, and proceed with completion of the examination of this patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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